

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I guess I am going to be the bad guy then and I would like to deal with two issues, both of them raised very legitimately by Senator Chambers. One has to do with the substance of the issue, the merits, and the other, of course, is the form, what we traditionally are calling the package in here now. So I will deal with the form over the substance first. The form, the package, I believe it is one of those things that if you pull the string, it will keep unfolding. If you do this, then why not the others, and so you have the package, to a degree the form does become an important thing. But let's get to the substance, the Mexican-American Commission. Like many of the other things that were created during the early seventies are what we generally call advocacy groups, what we have done is we have taken taxpayer dollars and said to this group or that group that has enough strength, by the way, to muster 25 votes in here, we have said to them we will now give you taxpayer dollars so that you can essentially lobby government for your particular purposes. I guess I think the net effect of that, the net effect, long term, is to injure the very groups you are trying to help by suggesting to them that somehow they are so different, that they are so inferior that they need special help. What I am going to say next is going to sound bad but I think the cruelest thing, the cruelest thing the American government has done to the Indian is to drown him, immerse him, submerge him in one program after another that destroys incentive and that destroys his ability to be a true human being. I don't care whether it is an Indian, a Mexican, a Chinese, a Vietnamese, a white man, whatever you want to call him, you can destroy anybody or any group by making them too dependent and by making government too involved in their own lives and their own survival and their own improvement of themselves. So the substance is I think the scope of government should be reduced with respect to the advocacy agencies and that is what we did yesterday. We reduced a number of "the advocacy agencies", in other words, government, taxpayer supported groups provided special money because of their particular strength to get a bill passed, given money to lobby, so on. I believe that history shows that those groups do best when they are internally financed, when they are internally organized, when they are not the creatures of government subject to life or death by virtue of government when they are really and truly spontaneous